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#### Where can I recycle my old computer?

To properly recycle your unwanted computer, as well as your old television, laptops, e-reader, or monitor, call (800) RECYCLE or go to <http://1800recycle.wa.gov> to find the drop-off location nearest you. Many drop-off locations offer electronics recycling for free.



Some organizations accept computers and refurbish them for reuse in schools, non-profits, and other places. Find a list of organizations that accept unwanted computers at [www.seattle.gov](http://www.seattle.gov) and search "donate computers".

#### Where can I recycle my child's car seat?

Goods for the Planet at 525 Dexter Avenue North will recycle baby car seats for \$8. All you have to do is remove any fabric and fabric straps. Otherwise, car seats go into the garbage. For safety purposes, parents are advised not to reuse car seats.

#### How do I dispose of Styrofoam packaging?

Some businesses recycle block Styrofoam and foam "peanuts." Go to [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup) or call the Peanut Hotline at (800) 828-2214 to find a recycle location near you. At home, Styrofoam and foam "peanuts" are not accepted in your curbside recycling or food and yard waste cart.

#### Can chicken poop go in my curbside food and yard waste cart?

No. Animal poop, cat litter, or any other animal or human waste is not allowed in your food and yard waste cart. This is to prevent the possibility of pathogens being transferred to the compost.

Because chickens and rabbits are vegetarians, their poop can be used in your home's backyard composting system to add nitrogen. Never add dog, cat, or human waste to your home composting system. For more information, call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224.

#### Do pizza boxes go into recycling or the food and yard waste cart?

The answer is "Yes!" Clean pizza boxes go into the recycling cart. If the pizza box is greasy or cheesy, put it into your food and yard cart. The little white table or stand that comes in the center of some pizzas goes in the garbage, unless your child can use it as dollhouse furniture.

#### Do I need to clean out my food containers before recycling them?

Yes. Containers with food and liquid in them are considered garbage until clean. Garbage degrades the quality of our recyclables, costs more to sort out, and is just plain gross. If you put too much garbage in your recycling container, it will not be collected until you sort it out.

How clean is clean? A quick rinse or scrape with a spatula should do the job. To put it another way: a little residue in the bottom of the peanut butter jar is ok, but don't leave enough to make a sandwich!

## Free Compostable Bags

Empty cookie jar. Water pitcher. Unused ice bucket. Tupperware. Refrigerator. Yesterday's newspaper. Paper grocery bags. Just about every Seattle resident has their own unique way of storing kitchen food scraps before they go in the curbside food and yard cart.

Whatever you're doing, it's working. Last year, Seattle residents helped turn 35,000 tons of leftovers into compost for local parks and gardens.

If you're still looking for a way to get started, you could try using compostable bags to keep your kitchen clean and do the right thing for the environment. Only Cedar Grove Composting approved, 100% biodegradable plant-based compostable bags may be used to collect food scraps in Seattle. Such bags turn into compost along with your food and yard waste.



Now through December 31, 2011, visit your local Neighborhood Service Center or Seattle Public Utilities' Walk-in Billing Center and receive a \$1.50 coupon and a free sample of Glad® Compostable Bags while supplies last. Restrictions apply.

For a list of Neighborhood Service Center locations, call (206) 684-3000 or visit [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nsc](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nsc). Glad® Compostable Bags are sold online and are available locally at QFC, Wal-Mart, and Target.

Seattle Public Utilities Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Fall 2011

# CurbWaste & Conserve



## You Did It! (Again)

Thanks, Seattle! For the seventh year in a row, you recycled more than ever. The latest recycling numbers show that Seattle's businesses and residents diverted 53.7% of their waste from the landfill into recycling or compost in 2010. This sets a new city record and maintains Seattle's reputation as a national recycling leader. Way to go! The city's goal is to divert 60% of its annual waste to recycling and composting by 2012.

Overall, the city disposed 335,570 tons of waste into the landfill in 2010, nearly 30% less than what Seattle threw in the landfill a decade ago.

The news is not all good, however. The average Seattle single-family household still sent more than 800 pounds of trash to the landfill last year. Half of that trash—400 pounds—could have been recycled or composted.

### Why waste a good thing?

Keep your food scraps, napkins, and greasy pizza boxes out of the landfill by putting them in your food and yard waste cart, where they will be made into compost for local parks and gardens.

Clean paper, envelopes, milk cartons, cups, cans, jars, and cartons go in the recycling, where they will be made into newspaper, magazines, trays, and everyday household items.

### Not sure what goes where?

Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup) to find how to properly dispose of recyclables and food and yard waste.

## Prevent Flooding, We'll Help



Prevent rainstorms from flooding your street. Help clear your local storm drain of leaves and other debris by participating in Fall Clean.

Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job every autumn, keeping leaves from clogging storm drains and flooding streets. As a way to involve citizens, the utility sponsors Fall Clean—a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Get signed up today at [www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain](http://www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain) or by calling (206) 233-7187.

## Where Does It Go?

PLEASE POST

See what goes in your recycling, food and yard waste or garbage

### Recycling Put items loose in cart, not in bags or boxes.

Paper  
Cartons  
Flattened cardboard boxes  
Clean coated paper



Glass bottles & jars  
Cans  
Aluminum foil  
Scrap metal (less than 2x2x2 ft.)  
Lids (3 in. or wider)



Plastic bottles, jars, tubs  
Plastic trays, cups, containers  
Plastic plant pots  
Plastic bags (bagged together)  
Pill bottles (no prescription vials)



No Food, Liquid or Loose Plastic Bags

### Food+ Compostables More items at [www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste).

Meat, dairy & cheese  
Bones & shells  
Coffee grounds & filters  
Fruits & vegetables  
Pasta, bread, grains & rice  
Tea bags



No Plastic, Glass or Metal

Approved compostable bags  
Kitchen paper towels & napkins  
Paper bags  
Greasy pizza boxes  
Uncoated paper plates  
Shredded paper (mix with yard waste)

Grass & leaves  
Weeds  
Houseplants  
Branches  
(less than 4 ft. long, 4 in. thick)



### Garbage Many items can be recycled. See back page for reuse & recycling options.

Alkaline batteries  
Unusable ceramics & glassware  
Unusable clothing, textiles, shoes  
Incandescent light bulbs  
Kitchen fats, oil, grease (in a secure container)



Diapers (bagged)  
Pet waste & litter (bagged)  
Paint cans (dry & empty)  
Lids, caps, tops (less than 3 in. wide)  
Ziplock, food & single plastic bags



Foam take-out containers  
Packing peanuts (bagged)  
Utensils  
Food-soiled coated paper  
Empty toxic containers



No Hazardous Waste, Recyclables or Yard Waste



Products containing toxic materials are prohibited from food and yard waste, recycling and garbage.

[www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) 206-684-3000 TTY 206-233-7241

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need translation assistance.



Recycling  
Guidelines Inside!

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Seattle Public Utilities  
700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.



# Where Does It Go?

## Other Collection Services

**Apartment/condo residents: Contact your manager for these services.**

### Used motor oil: Free

Collected at no charge on your recycling day.  
Place oil in a 1-gallon plastic jug with screw-on lid next to your recycling cart.  
Limit: 2 jugs per collection.

### Electronics (Computers, TVs, monitors)

Collected for a fee. Call **206-684-3000**.

### Bulky items

(Mattresses, furniture, appliances, etc.)

Collected for a fee. Call **206-684-3000**.



## Beyond the Curb Other recycling & disposal options.

### TV, monitor, computer drop-off: Free

1-800-RECYCLE or [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org).

### Cell phone and fluorescent bulb drop-off

[www.takeitbacknetwork.org](http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org)

Some locations may charge a fee.

### Battery recycling: Free

[www.totalreclaim.com](http://www.totalreclaim.com) or 206-343-7443.

### Rechargeable battery drop-off: Free

[www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org) or 1-800-8-BATTERY.

### Plastic bags

Reuse or recycle at grocery stores.

### Clothing & furniture

Donate items in good condition.

### Packing peanuts

Take to mail store for reuse.

### Construction materials

[www.GreenTools.us](http://www.GreenTools.us)

### Garbage, recycling, clean wood & yard waste

Accepted at Seattle's Recycling & Disposal stations.

For local drop-off locations for hard-to-recycle items, visit [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup)

## Hazardous Materials Prohibited from recycling, yard waste and garbage.

Products marked "CAUTION," "WARNING," "DANGER" or "POISON" may require hazardous waste disposal.

**Safe hazardous material disposal information:**  
**206-296-4692 or [www.govlink.org/hazwaste](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste)**



For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

如需更口譯服務，請撥電話206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Wixli turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka:

206-684-3000.

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyong ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.



[www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) 206-684-3000 TTY 206-233-7241

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# Stop. Think. Sort.

**Having a meal at your favorite fast food restaurant?** Take a close look at the plates, trays and wrappers used to serve your food.

You'll find that many of them are compostable and that the rest are recyclable – the result of a Seattle law designed to stop the waste of single-use food service ware.



Instead of a single garbage can, your restaurant should now have three types of containers: one for compostables, one for recyclables, and one for garbage. Each one should be clearly marked with colorful signs, showing you which packaging and products are compostable and which are recyclable.

Take a moment at the end of your meal to stop, think and sort. Make sure that what's on your tray goes in the right bin, and place any leftover food into the compost container.

All of the fast-food service ware and packaging that used to be thrown away every year filled a one-mile, 100-car garbage train that we send to a landfill in Oregon. With your help and great cooperation from local restaurants, we're working our way toward zero waste.



## Drugs: Prevent Poisoning, Abuse, and Pollution

### Do you have old, unused, unwanted, or expired medications?

Drug overdoses and related poisonings have surpassed car crashes as the leading cause of accidental deaths in Washington State. Teenagers are the biggest abusers of prescription drugs...often easily obtained from home medicine cabinets.

### How do you dispose of your leftover medicines?

Medicines should not be put into food or yard waste cart. Trash disposal of drugs is not safe because pets, other animals, children and adults have easy access. Medicines flushed down the toilet waste more than just water, they create an environmental hazard. While not found in Seattle's drinking water, medicines are showing up in our treated wastewater, groundwater, and Puget Sound waterways. Scientists have discovered a range of adverse effects in fish and other aquatic life exposed to pharmaceutical residues, from impaired reproduction to less-fit offspring.



Drug Take-Back Programs are the safest method of disposing of leftover prescription and over-the-counter drugs. For nearby disposal locations see:

**[www.takebackyourmeds.org/what-you-can-do/locations](http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/what-you-can-do/locations)**  
or phone the Household Hazards Line at **(206) 296-4692**.

## Apartments/Condos: Food Waste Collection Service Required

By Seattle ordinance, all apartment and condo properties must subscribe to food waste collection service by September 1, 2011. The intent of this law is to ensure that all residents can compost their food scraps and yard waste, which reduces garbage sent to the landfill and helps the environment.

A one-time \$100 rebate is still available for properties that sign up for food waste collection and a Friend of Recycling and Composting (FORC) steward. A FORC steward monitors the collection bins and educates residents about sorting materials correctly. This rebate is only available to Seattle properties of five or more units.

The bill payer for the property can sign up for service and a FORC steward in ONE of three ways:

1. On-line at **[www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste)** -OR-
2. Call **(206) 684-7665**, and speak with a customer representative -OR-
3. Call **(206) 684-8717** to request by voice menu a paper information packet and application

Free kitchen scrap buckets for property units will be distributed to FORCs who attend a 2011 FORC steward training. For information and a list of available trainings, call **(206) 684-5223** or visit **[www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste)**. If you are a resident at a property that does not yet have a green food and yard waste cart available, contact your manager to ask about this service. If the manager is not willing to provide this service, call **(206) 684-7665** for assistance.



## Healthy Autumn Yard Care Tips



Taking care of your yard doesn't have to take a toll on our environment—there is a better way to beautiful.

### Use Less Water

Due to the shorter days of fall, most plants need less water even when the weather is still warm. Using water wisely is healthier for your plants, keeps more water available for people, fish, and other wildlife—and saves you money.

For answers to your gardening questions, contact the Garden Hotline:  
**(206) 633-0224**  
[help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org)

### Mulch

Mulching your beds after fall cleanup helps keep weeds out, protects soil from erosion by winter rains, and feeds your soil. Fallen leaves can be used as mulch. Just leave them on beds, or rake them into a pile to make mulch for next spring.

### Natural Lawn Care

Fall is the best time of year to fertilize. An organic or slow-release fertilizer keeps feeding your lawn year-round. It is also a great time to dethatch or aerate your lawn, and to top dress it with a fine layer of compost. Contact the Garden Hotline to request our Natural Lawn Care guide or to ask other yard care questions.

### Read, Enjoy, Learn

Read the latest Savvy Gardener e-newsletter for more great gardening tips. If you haven't subscribed yet, visit us at **[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)**, click on "Conserve Outside," and then on "Savvy Gardener." It's free, informative, and you'll be the first to hear about our free Savvy Gardener classes! You can also "like us" on Facebook at **[www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews](http://www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews)**.



## Seattle Schools Certify as Washington Green Schools

Congratulations to the following Seattle schools for earning Washington Green School certification during the 2010-11 school year:

Level 2: Bertschi School, John Stanford International Elementary, Maple Elementary, Montlake Elementary

Level 1: Catherine Blaine K-8, Graham Hill Elementary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Villa Academy

Washington Green Schools is a voluntary program that K-12 schools can use to increase resource conservation and reduce waste reduction. More than 45 Seattle schools are signed up in this statewide program.